

Child Bereavement in the Digital Age - Key Facts

1. 1 child in every classroom in the UK has lost a parent or a sibling.
2. 2.5 million people living with cancer in UK this year, 18% with a young person at home.¹
3. 25% of under-20s who take their own lives have experienced bereavement.²
4. 41% of youth offenders have experienced bereavement in childhood, compared to the 4% national average.³
5. The average cost of putting one young person through the criminal justice system is £100,000.⁴
6. 41,000 children bereaved in the UK each year.⁵
7. £19.7 million –the cost of providing all bereaved children in the UK with 12 sessions of counselling.⁶
8. Kids from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to access counselling, and more likely to lose a parent.⁷
9. Studies show that using an avatar in a game world helps to connect with difficult thoughts and feelings.⁸
10. 83% of people in the UK have made no plans for what happens to their social media accounts when they die.⁹
11. In one study, 90% of students after a school shooting used social media to grieve, expressing their emotions publicly online..¹⁰
12. But the main social media channels may not help a young person to grieve effectively, as the ongoing existence of the deceased's virtual self can make it more difficult to let go.¹¹

¹ <http://www.open.ac.uk/people/sites/www.open.ac.uk.people/files/files/Hope%20launch%20report%20%20FINAL.pdf>

² <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/suicide-in-children-and-young-people-linked-to-bereavement-new-report-finds/>

³ <https://www.winstonswish.org/about-us/facts-and-figures/>

⁴ https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/1011663_technical_paper.pdf

⁵ <http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/research/key-statistics.aspx>

⁶ <https://bounce.works/apartofme/faq>

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5192088/>

⁸ <http://vhil.stanford.edu/pubs/>

⁹ <https://digitallegacyassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Digital-Death-Survey-2017-HQ.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.psychology.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Falconer1.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.psychology.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Falconer1.pdf>